

100 Famous Signatures



ILLINOIS HISTORICAL SURVEY

929.88
E5850

FOREWORD

WE send this little booklet to our friends as a reminder of and an inspiration from the hundred famous men and women whose signatures it contains. For handwriting is the most intimate expression of the personality of those with whom we cannot converse.

As these signatures reveal, some men have become great in spite of their bad handwriting. Nevertheless, we have still to learn of one to whom an illegible hand was an asset.

Everyone who reads a letter, or even a signature, swiftly judges the character of the writer from his handwriting. This judgment is all the more decisive because it is as a rule perfectly unconscious; and it is all the more to be considered because it is so likely to be inaccurate and unjust.

Good penmanship does not primarily depend upon the form or slant of the letters. It does not even depend upon the way the pen is held, although both affect the ease and speed of writing. Clear readable handwriting depends only upon the will and desire of the writer to be helpful to the person who is to read what he writes.

In defense of Shakespeare and many others whose names are in this book, it must be remembered that the steel pen was not invented until early in the nineteenth century, and that steel pens were not produced in any quantity in the United States until 1858. In that year Richard Esterbrook established in Camden, New Jersey, the company which bears his name, and which has devoted itself for 66 years to the manufacture of steel pens.

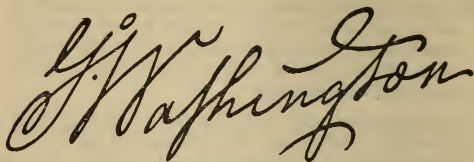
Today, with all the aid which a fine steel writing instrument can provide, there is no longer an excuse for unreadable handwriting. And there is an Esterbrook steel pen specially designed and made to fit the individual requirements of every writer.

American business men nowadays pride themselves on their application of the Golden Rule in business transactions. Needed,—an application of the Golden Rule to penmanship: "Write to others as you would that others should write to you!"

THE ESTERBROOK STEEL PEN M'F'G. CO.
CAMDEN, NEW JERSEY

168697

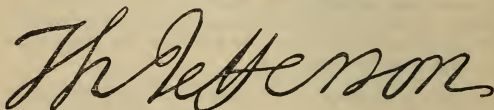
U. S. PRESIDENTS



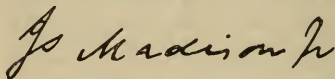
GEORGE WASHINGTON
1732-1799. 1st President of the U. S.



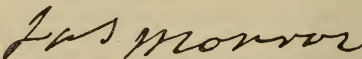
JOHN ADAMS
1735-1826. 2nd President of the U. S.



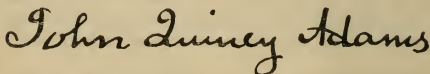
THOMAS JEFFERSON
1743-1826. 3rd President of the U. S.



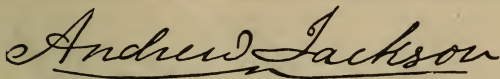
JAMES MADISON
1751-1836. 4th President of the U. S.



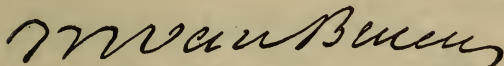
JAMES MONROE
1758-1831. 5th President of the U. S.



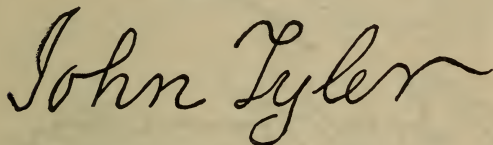
JOHN QUINCY ADAMS
1767-1848. 6th President of the U. S.

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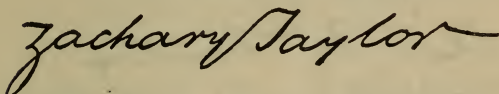
ANDREW JACKSON  
1767-1845. 7th President of the U. S.



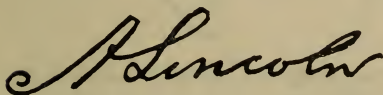
MARTIN VAN BUREN  
1782-1862. 8th President of the U. S.



JOHN TYLER  
1790-1862. 10th President of the U. S.



ZACHARY TAYLOR  
1784-1850. 12th President of the U. S.



ABRAHAM LINCOLN  
1809-1865. 16th President of the U. S.



ULYSSES S. GRANT  
1822-1885. 18th President of the U. S.

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J. A. Garfield

JAMES A. GARFIELD
1831-1881. 20th President of the U. S.

Grover Cleveland

GROVER CLEVELAND
1837-1908.
22nd and 24th President
of the U. S.

Benjamin Harrison

BENJAMIN HARRISON
1833-1901. 23rd President of the U. S.

William McKinley


WILLIAM McKINLEY
1843-1901.
25th President of the U. S.

Theodore Roosevelt

THEODORE ROOSEVELT
1858-1919. 26th President of the U. S.

William Taft

WILLIAM H. TAFT
1857. 27th President of the U. S.


Woodrow Wilson

WOODROW WILSON

1856.

28th President of the U. S. 1913-1921

Warren G. Harding

WARREN G. HARDING

1865-1923. 29th President of the U. S.

Calvin Coolidge

CALVIN COOLIDGE

1872. 30th President of the U. S.

POETS AND AUTHORS

William Shakespeare


WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

1564-1616. English poet and playwright

Joannes Miltonius

JOHN MILTON

1608-1674. English poet



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*Sam: Johnson*

SAMUEL JOHNSON  
1709-1784. English writer and lexicographer

*Oliver Goldsmith*

OLIVER GOLDSMITH  
1728-1774. English poet and novelist

*James Boswell*

JAMES BOSWELL  
1740-1795. English biographer

*Robt Burns*

ROBERT BURNS  
1759-1796. Scottish poet

*W Wordsworth*


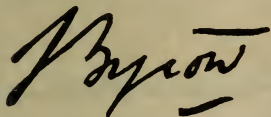
WILLIAM WORDSWORTH  
1770-1850. English poet

*Walter Scott*

SIR WALTER SCOTT  
1771-1832. Scottish poet and novelist

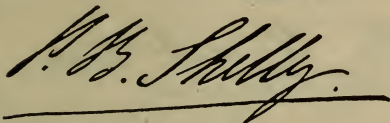
*Washington Irving*

WASHINGTON IRVING  
1783-1859. American writer  
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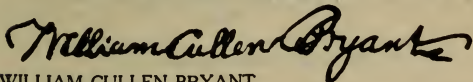
LORD BYRON

1788-1824. English poet



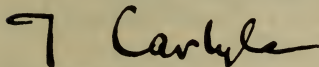
PERCY BYSSHE SHELLEY

1792-1822. English poet



WILLIAM CULLEN BRYANT

1794-1878. American poet



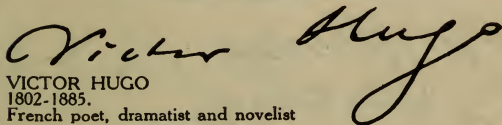
THOMAS CARLYLE

1795-1881. British essayist, historian and philosopher



JOHN KEATS

1795-1821. English poet



VICTOR HUGO


1802-1885.

French poet, dramatist and novelist



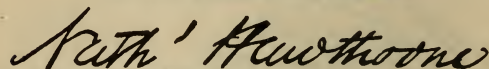
ALEXANDRE DUMAS

1802-1870. French novelist and dramatist

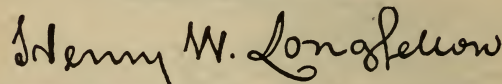


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RALPH WALDO EMERSON  
1803-1882. American poet and essayist



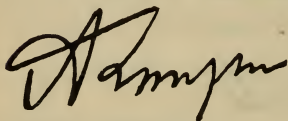
NATHANIEL HAWTHORNE  
1804-1864. American writer



HENRY W. LONGFELLOW  
1807-1882. American poet



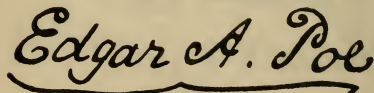
JOHN GREENLEAF WHITTIER  
1807-1892. American poet




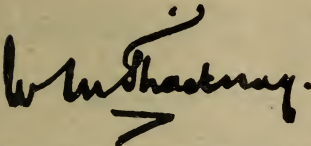
ALFRED TENNYSON  
1809-1892. English poet



OLIVER WENDELL HOLMES  
1809-1894. American writer



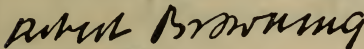
EDGAR ALLEN POE  
1809-1849. American poet and writer  
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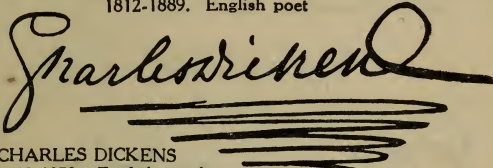
WILLIAM MAKEPEACE THACKERAY
1811-1863. English novelist



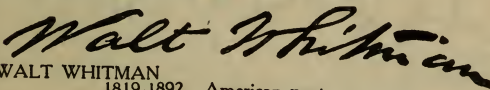
HARRIET BEECHER STOWE
1811-1896. Author of "Uncle Tom's Cabin"



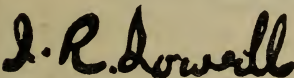
ROBERT BROWNING
1812-1889. English poet



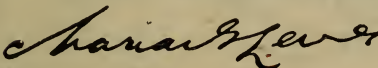
CHARLES DICKENS
1812-1870. English novelist



WALT WHITMAN
1819-1892. American poet



JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL
1819-1891. American author and diplomatist



MARIAN G. LEWES
("George Eliot")
1819-1880. English novelist



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*Sam L. Clemens*

SAMUEL L. CLEMENS

("Mark Twain")

1835-1910. Author and humorist

*Mark Twain*

*John Burroughs*

JOHN BURROUGHS

1837. American poet and naturalist

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ROYALTY

*Henry 8*

HENRY VIII

1491-1547. King of England 1509-1547

*Elizabeth*

ELIZABETH

1533-1603. Queen of England 1558-1603  
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*MARY*

MARY STUART

1542-1587. "Mary Queen of Scots"

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ARTISTS AND MUSICIANS

*Rembrandt*

REMBRANDT

1606-1669. Dutch painter

*Joh. Seb. Bach*

JOHN SEBASTIAN BACH

1685-1750. German musical composer

*Landseer*

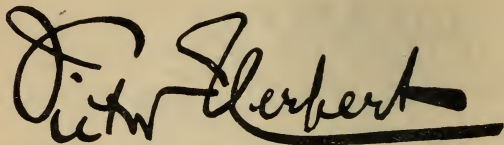

SIR EDWIN LANDSEER

1802-1873. English painter

*Jenny Lind*  
*born Lind*

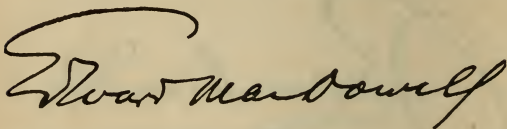
JENNY LIND

1800-1887. Swedish singer  
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VICTOR HERBERT

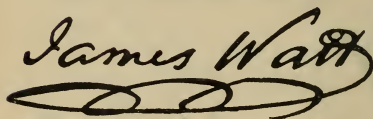
1859. American musician and composer



EDWARD A. MacDOWELL

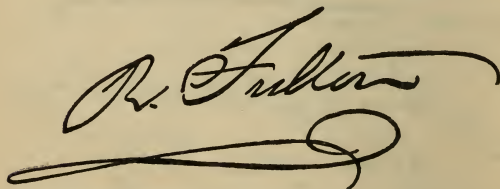
1861-1908 American musical composer

INVENTORS



JAMES WATT

1736-1819. Inventor of the steam-engine



ROBERT FULTON

1765-1815. Inventor of the steamboat



Sam F B Morse

SAMUEL F. B. MORSE
1791-1872. Inventor of the telegraph

Alexander Graham Bell

ALEXANDER GRAHAM BELL
1847-1922. Inventor of the telephone

Thomas A. Edison

THOMAS A. EDISON
1847. Inventor of the phonograph and many
electrical devices

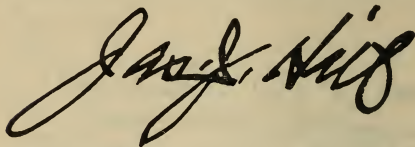

BUSINESS MEN

R. Esterbrook

RICHARD ESTERBROOK
1813-1896 First American maker of steel pens

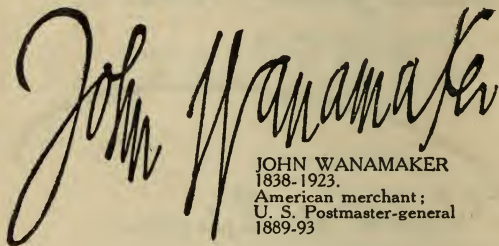
Andrew Carnegie

ANDREW CARNEGIE
1837-1919. Captain of industry and philanthropist



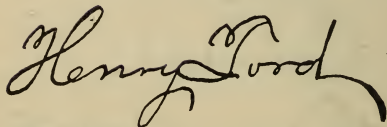
JAMES J. HILL

1838-1916. American railway capitalist



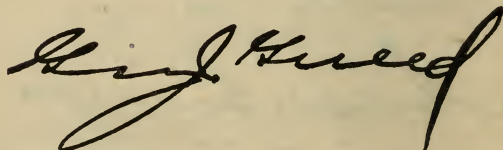
JOHN WANAMAKER
1838-1923.

American merchant;
U. S. Postmaster-general
1889-93



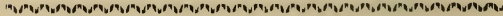
HENRY FORD

1863. Automobile manufacturer



GEORGE J. GOULD

1864. American railway capitalist




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RELIGIOUS LEADERS

*Wesley*

JOHN WESLEY  
1703-1791. Founder of the Methodist Church

*Henry Ward Beecher*

HENRY WARD BEECHER  
1813-1887. American preacher and reformer.

*Mary B. Eddy*

MARY BAKER G. EDDY  
1821-1910. Founder of Christian Science Church

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SOLDIERS AND SAILORS

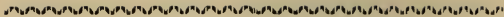
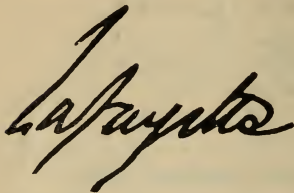
*Oliver Cromwell*

OLIVER CROMWELL  
1599-1658. Religious, military and political  
leader in England

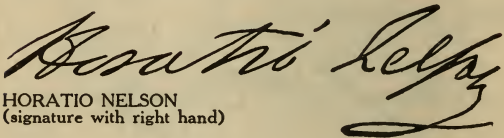
*Paul Jones*

JOHN PAUL JONES  
1747-1792. American Naval Officer

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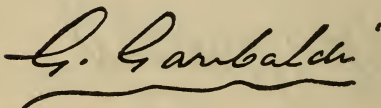
MARQUIS de LAFAYETTE
1757-1834. French soldier and statesman



HORATIO NELSON
(signature with right hand)



NELSON & BRONTE
(signature with left hand)
1758-1805. British Naval hero

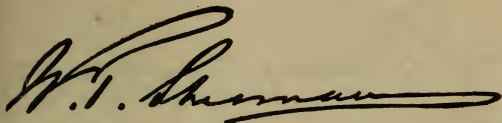


GIUSEPPE GARIBALDI
1807-1882. Italian soldier and patriot




ROBERT E. LEE
1807-1870. Commander of Confederate army



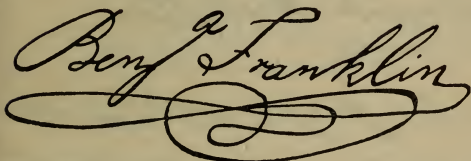
A large, flowing handwritten signature in black ink, reading "W. T. Sherman". The signature is written in a cursive style with long, sweeping strokes.

WILLIAM T. SHERMAN
1820-1891. American General

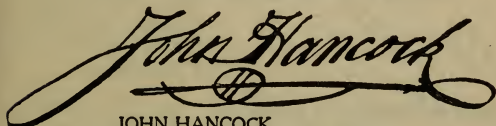
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Philip H. Sheridan". The signature is written in a cursive style with a prominent "P" and "S".

PHILIP H. SHERIDAN
1831-1888. American General

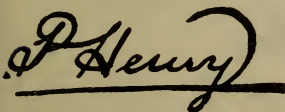
STATESMEN

A large, ornate handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Benjamin Franklin". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative "B" and "F".

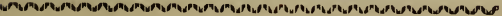
BENJAMIN FRANKLIN
1706-1790. American statesman and scientist

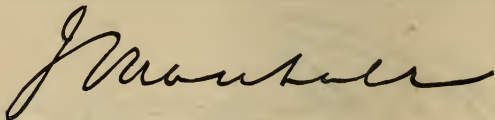
A large, flowing handwritten signature in black ink, reading "John Hancock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative "J" and "H".

JOHN HANCOCK
1737-1793. American statesman

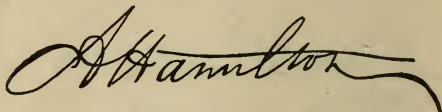
A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Patrick Henry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, decorative "P" and "H".

PATRICK HENRY
1737-1799. American statesman

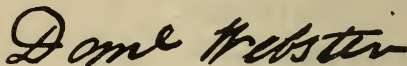




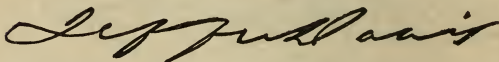
JOHN MARSHALL
1755-1835. Chief Justice of Supreme Court 1801-1835



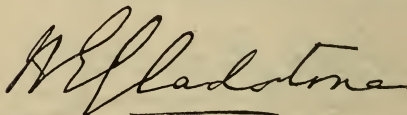
ALEXANDER HAMILTON
1757-1804. American statesman



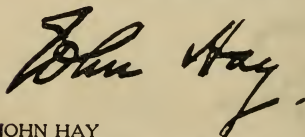
DANIEL WEBSTER
1782-1852, American statesman



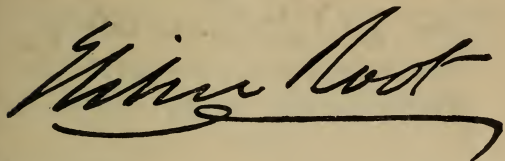

JEFFERSON DAVIS
1808-1889. President of Confederate States



WILLIAM EWART GLADSTONE
1809-1898. British statesman

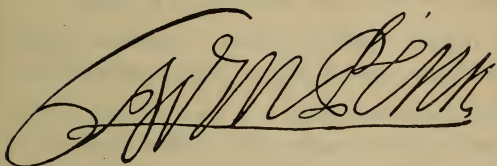


JOHN HAY
1838-1905. American statesman and author



ELIHU ROOT
1845. American statesman

MISCELLANEOUS



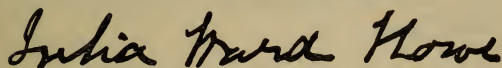
WILLIAM PENN
1644-1718. Founder of Pennsylvania



CHARLES DARWIN
1809-1882. English naturalist



DAVID LIVINGSTONE
1813-1873. Explorer and missionary in Africa



JULIA WARD HOWE
1819-1910. American author and reformer



Peter W. Stanley,

INTERESTING FACTS ABOUT ESTERBROOK STEEL PENS

Richard Esterbrook was the first maker of steel pens in America.

The steel in an Esterbrook Pen is of as fine a quality as that in the mainspring of a watch.

It requires nineteen distinct operations, taking twenty-one days, to make a single Esterbrook pen.

The Esterbrook plant at Camden, New Jersey, turns out three-quarters of a million steel pens a day; more than 200,000,000 pens a year.

Each Esterbrook pen is separately examined by an expert inspector before leaving the factory. The slightest imperfection is sufficient cause for rejection; all rejected pens are destroyed.

Esterbrook pens are used in every civilized country in the world.

The Esterbrook Pen Manufacturing Company, founded by Richard Esterbrook in 1858, is the oldest and largest manufacturer of steel pens in the United States.





WILL SHAKESPEARE
and **ANN HATHAWAY**